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**From:** Morning Consult [energy@e.morningconsult.com]  
**Sent:** 10/17/2016 11:59:48 AM  
**To:** Duffy, Rick [Duffy.Rick@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Morning Consult Energy, Presented by Nuclear Matters: Negotiators Reach Deal on HFCs; BP Considers Expanding U.S. Wind Business



By Jack Fitzpatrick

## Today's Washington Brief

- Negotiators from more than 170 countries reached a legally binding deal on Saturday to counter climate change by cutting the worldwide use of hydrofluorocarbons, a powerful greenhouse gas used in air conditioners and refrigerators. The negotiations didn't attract as much attention as last year's Paris accord, but Secretary of State John Kerry called it "the biggest thing we can do in one giant swoop." (The New York Times)
- Hillary Clinton told a trade union last year that she wants to "defend natural gas" and "defend fracking under the right circumstances," according to a transcript of a meeting released in a hacked email by Wikileaks. The emailed transcript shows Clinton said environmental activists need to "get a life." (Washington Examiner)
- The Environmental Protection Agency delayed its scientific advisory panel on the safety of the widely used herbicide glyphosate, which was scheduled for this week. The agency has released a paper saying the chemical is probably not carcinogenic, but will not follow up on that research until "later in 2016." (Morning Consult)

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## Today's Business Brief

- BP is considering expanding its U.S. wind power business by the end of the year, when the wind production tax credit will be reduced. The investment could mean expanding its wind farms or upgrading its turbines to higher capacity equipment. (Financial Times)
- Russian President Vladimir Putin said Rosneft, the country's top oil producer, may buy back its shares from the government before eventually reselling them. The move would represent an intermediate step toward privatization, and would give the Russian government an infusion of cash amid a slump in oil prices. (Bloomberg News)
- Oil prices edged lower on Monday, pulled down by a rising rig count in the United States, but expectations of an OPEC intervention next month gave them a floor. West Texas Intermediate crude oil futures were trading at \$50.18 per barrel at 4:58 a.m., down 17 cents from their last settlement, while Brent crude oil futures dropped 7 cents to \$51.88 per barrel. (Reuters)

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## Today's Chart Review

American Workers Go Farther. Be Worried, OPEC  
**Bloomberg Gadfly**

## Mark Your Calendars (All Times Eastern)

### Monday

Masao Uchibori, governor of Japan's Fukushima Prefecture, speaks at CSIS about revitalization efforts	<b>3 p.m.</b>
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2016 Distributed Sun New Energy Summit	<b>7 p.m.</b>
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### Tuesday

2016 Distributed Sun New Energy Summit	<b>8 a.m.</b>
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Hosnia Hashim, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Petrochemical Industries Company of Kuwait, speaks at Columbia University's Center on Global Energy Policy	<b>10 a.m.</b>
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EIA Administrator Adam Sieminski speaks at the American Gas Association's Natural Gas Roundtable	<b>12 p.m.</b>
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Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee holds a field hearing in Honolulu, Hawaii on water management

**4 p.m. ET**

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### **Wednesday**

Council of Industrial Boiler Owners holds its annual meeting in Woodstock, Vt.

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### **Thursday**

Council of Industrial Boiler Owners holds its annual meeting in Woodstock, Vt.

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### **Friday**

Council of Industrial Boiler Owners holds its annual meeting in Woodstock, Vt.

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## **General**

Clinton to environmentalists: 'Get a life'  
**John Siciliano, Washington Examiner**

Hillary Clinton is a supporter of the fossil fuel industry and a defender of fracking, and told a private meeting last year that extreme environmental activists need to "get a life," according to new illegally obtained emails posted by WikiLeaks. "[M]y view is I want to defend natural gas," Clinton said in a transcript of a private meeting with a trade union last September that was sent to her campaign.

Unions for green jobs: Why organized labor is getting behind offshore wind  
**Ben Rosen, Christian Science Monitor**

Ironworker Roy Coulombe was one of the union reps approached by Deepwater Wind, a renewable energy firm, with a daring proposal: Back our efforts to lobby for the country's first offshore wind farm, and we'll make sure you build it. Seven years later, Mr. Coulombe and his crew were among the 300 union laborers that

constructed the 1,500-ton turbines that rise 600 feet out of the ocean off the coast of Block Island, R.I.

#### **EPA Delays Panel on Glyphosate Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult**

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Friday it is postponing a panel review of whether glyphosate, a widely used herbicide, could cause cancer. EPA had a scientific advisory panel meeting scheduled for Oct. 18-21, following up on an agency paper that found the herbicide is probably not carcinogenic.

#### **GAO: Federal Government Spent \$101 Million on Algal Blooms Between 2013-15 Jack Fitzpatrick, Morning Consult**

Twelve federal agencies spent \$101 million to deal with algal blooms in all 50 states from 2013 to 2015, according to a Government Accountability Office report. Algal blooms can be harmful to humans, fish and plants, and have had an effect on the seafood industry, according to the GAO.

#### **Bonds Selloff Spreads on Inflation Concern; Stocks Fall With Oil James Regan Alan Soughley, Bloomberg News**

Government bonds retreated around the world after comments by Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen fueled concern that policy makers will tolerate faster inflation. Global shares declined with oil.

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## **Oil & Natural Gas**

#### **What OPEC's Oil U-Turn Missed: Peak Demand Keeps Getting Closer Jessica Shankleman, Bloomberg News**

OPEC's decision last month to reverse its policy of unfettered production and cut oil output to boost prices may be at odds with the industry's most important long-term trend: demand for what they produce could start falling within 15 years. If rapid improvements continue in renewable energy, electric vehicles and other disruptive technologies, petroleum consumption will peak in 2030 and decline thereafter, according to a report from the World Energy Council.

#### **Putin Promises 'Real' Privatization as Rosneft May Buy Shares Elena Mazneva and Stepan Kravchenko, Bloomberg News**

Russia's largest oil producer may help the state by buying back shares from the government this year and reselling them later, a step that would finally make privatization of the company "real," President Vladimir Putin said. If Rosneft PJSC buys the shares, it'll be "an intermediate step toward the genuine privatization," the president told reporters at the BRICS summit in Goa, India, on Sunday.

#### **Iran Kicks Off Oil-Development Tender to Woo Foreign Investors** **Anthony Dipaola, Bloomberg News**

Iran is ramping up efforts to woo foreign investment in an energy industry stunted by years of sanctions, with a request for companies to submit documents to pre-qualify as bidders to develop the country's oil and natural gas fields. State-run National Iranian Oil Co. will solicit documents from international companies starting Monday, according to an announcement posted on the website of Shana, the oil ministry's news service.

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## **Utilities & Infrastructure**

#### **Valdez hydropower project makes utility all-renewable in summer** **Alex DeMarban, Alaska Dispatch News**

The launch of a new hydroelectric system in Valdez means another power provider has joined the ranks of utilities that can operate fully on renewable power, at least seasonally. Copper Valley Electric Association flipped the switch on the \$50 million Allison Creek project a week ago, allowing the utility to eliminate diesel fuel for power generation during the warmer months.

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## **Renewables**

#### **The U.S. government just made its biggest clean energy purchase ever** **Chris Mooney, The Washington Post**

On Friday in Maricopa County, Ariz., the U.S. government will hit a clean energy milestone: What officials are calling the largest procurement ever of renewable energy by the federal government, in this case from a desert solar array. The new 150-megawatt, or million-watt, Mesquite 3 solar array is located in Arizona, but the electricity it generates will be sent to California's electric grid and will power roughly

one-third of the electricity needs of 14 naval installations in the state, including San Diego's naval base and the Marines' Twentynine Palms and Camp Pendleton.

**BP to decide on first green energy investment for five years**  
**Ed Crooks, Financial Times**

BP is considering its first significant new investment in renewable energy for five years, as it prepares to make a decision on expanding its US wind power business by the end of this year. The US production tax credit for wind power will be reduced at the end of the year, and BP is looking at making a commitment before then to benefit from the higher rate.

**As massive solar farms blossom, officials face conflict between state energy policy and local preferences**  
**Scott Dance, The Baltimore Sun**

Energy companies, lured by a state policy that encourages renewable electricity generation and riding a larger industry boom, are flocking to Maryland farmland to build massive solar installations. But now the industry's rapid rise is threatened by the revival of a conflict that had laid dormant for decades - since most of the state's large power plants were built.

**In Scotland, gusts of wind usher in a quiet energy revolution**  
**Griff Witte, The Washington Post**

Even by the blustery standards of this notoriously squall-swept land, Aug. 7 was a particularly gusty day. But amid the gale-force havoc, the day also brought a critical milestone in a quiet energy revolution: For the first time ever, the army of spinning white turbines that has sprouted across the lush countryside generated enough electricity to power all of Scotland.

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## Coal

**While politicians focus on EPA, experts say gas to blame for coal decline**  
**Ken Ward Jr., Charleston Gazette-Mail**

While both major party candidates for governor in West Virginia continue to blame Obama administration regulations, a new study provides still more expert evidence that competition from cheap natural gas is a much larger factor in the decline of West Virginia's coal industry. The boom in natural gas from hydraulic fracturing in shale-gas regions like West Virginia's Marcellus Shale has driven the decline in coal

production in the United States during the last decade, according to the new scientific paper from researchers at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

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## Nuclear

### Nuclear Skeptic Set to Govern Japan Prefecture With Biggest Nuclear Plant Takashi Nakamichi, *The Wall Street Journal*

A nuclear-power skeptic won a gubernatorial race on Sunday in the Japanese prefecture hosting the world's largest nuclear plant, in a blow to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's energy policy. Opposition-backed candidate Ryuichi Yoneyama, a 49-year-old doctor who has never held public office, beat a former construction ministry official supported by Mr. Abe's ruling coalition to become governor of Niigata prefecture.

### Pakistan's 4th nuclear power plant of 340 MW starts operation *The Indian Express*

Pakistan's 4th nuclear power plant with the power generation capacity of 340 Megawatt has become functional, state media reported Saturday. The Chashma Unit-3 (C-3) has been connected to national grid, Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) quoted Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC).

### Nuclear group banks on bipartisan agreement on energy priorities John Siciliano, *Washington Examiner*

Support for nuclear energy has been the one thing that has remained bipartisan in this raucous election cycle, the new incoming president of the nuclear industry's lead trade group said in Washington. "We have a presidential election coming up. And much of that debate has been incredibly polarized," said Maria Korsnick, chief operating officer for the Nuclear Energy Institute.

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## Climate

### Nations, Fighting Powerful Refrigerant That Warms Planet, Reach Landmark Deal Coral Davenport, *The New York Times*



Negotiators from more than 170 countries on Saturday reached a legally binding accord to counter climate change by cutting the worldwide use of a powerful planet-warming chemical used in air-conditioners and refrigerators. President Obama called the deal "an ambitious and far-reaching solution to this looming crisis."

#### Climate change makes waves in Florida races **Devin Henry, The Hill**

Climate change is turning into a critical election issue for many Florida candidates - and not just Democrats. Democrats have long used the issue to hit Republicans in the coastal state, but now some GOP candidates are also touting their work on climate issues.

#### **A Message from Nuclear Matters:**

Providing more than 62% of America's carbon-free electricity, existing, state-of-the-art nuclear energy plants play a vital role in achieving our clean-energy and carbon-reduction goals. Learn more at [NuclearMatters.com](http://NuclearMatters.com).

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## Opinions, Editorials & Perspectives

#### Mining States Face New Threat From Proposed EPA Bonding Requirements **Phillips S. Baker, Morning Consult**

Sometimes we forget that mining continues to be a significant part of the U.S. economy. With several thousand mines operating nationwide, the United States is able to produce precious metals such as gold and silver, as well as metals such as zinc, copper, and iron needed to manufacture electric vehicles and solar panels.

#### A Weak Deal on Airplane Emissions **The Editorial Board, Bloomberg View**

Cheers rose from prominent voices around the world this month when almost all countries agreed to reduce the climate costs of international air travel. Yet the agreement hardly qualifies for the praise.

#### American Workers Go Farther. Be Worried, OPEC **Liam Denning, Bloomberg Gadfly**

"Miles per hour" measures speed. "Miles per hour worked" measures stamina. Namely, your wallet's stamina.

### A Message from Nuclear Matters:

Some of America's existing nuclear energy plants face early closure due to current economic and policy conditions. The industry supports more than 475,000 jobs nationally and provides critical tax revenue locally for roads, schools and other public priorities. We need policymakers to support policies that keep safe and reliable nuclear energy plants working for all of us. Voice your support for policies that drive our national economy and join us at [NuclearMatters.com](http://NuclearMatters.com).

## Research Reports, Issue Briefs & Case Studies

Empty forest or empty rivers? A century of commercial hunting in Amazonia  
**André P. Antunes et al., Science Advances**

The Amazon basin is the largest and most species-rich tropical forest and river system in the world, playing a pivotal role in global climate regulation and harboring hundreds of traditional and indigenous cultures. It is a matter of intense debate whether the ecosystem is threatened by hunting practices, whereby an "empty forest" loses critical ecological functions.



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